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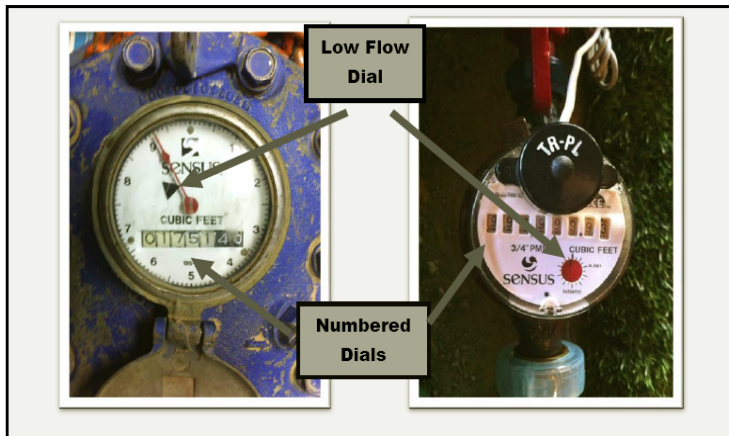
# ON TAP

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## WATER METERS 101

TCWD routinely receives phone calls from customers concerning a possible leak in their residential plumbing system, which includes both the plumbing in the home and the outside irrigation system. A water leak can occur at any point in the plumbing system, but an informed homeowner can effectively diagnose the existence of a water leak through the following simple methods.



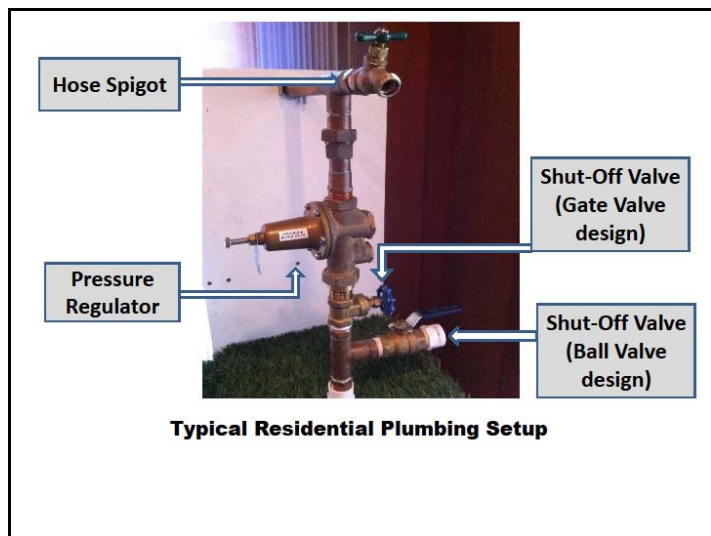
The first step to determine the existence of a water leak is to use the most effective tool for the job, the water meter. The water meter is usually located inside a meter box at the front of the property in the lawn. In some cases, residential meter boxes can be located in the sidewalk. These meters are designed to track a customer's water consumption by measuring the amount of water that travels through the body of the device. Furthermore, the internal components of a residential water meter are designed to spin forward only, not backward.

Typically, there is a mounted register on the water meter which has a series of numbered dials. These

dials allow TCWD Meter Readers to determine the customer's water consumption. One of the more important items on the register face is the low flow dial. These dials vary with the meter manufacturer; many meters in TCWD's service area have a small black dial that is triangular in shape. Other meters have a low flow dial that is circular in shape and is red in color, as noted in the picture. The low flow dial is an essential tool for homeowners to determine if there is a leak in the plumbing system since it is designed to spin if there is any amount of water traveling through the meter, no matter how large or small.

Prior to examining the low flow dial to isolate a leak in the plumbing system, it is important to ensure there is no water in use at the residence. This includes items such as irrigation systems, dishwashers, washing machines, and faucets. If there is no water in use and there are no leaks in the plumbing system, the low flow dial is designed to remain still. If all of these items are turned off and the low flow dial is spinning, there is a leak in the system.

If there is a leak in the system, the next step is to determine if the leak is in the home plumbing or in the outside irrigation system. In order to accurately determine which area of the plumbing system is affected it is important to isolate the irrigation system from the home plumbing, and vice versa. First, isolate the irrigation system from the home by shutting off the main irrigation valve and check the water meter. If the low flow dial has stopped spinning, the leak is in the irrigation system. If the low flow dial is still spinning, the leak is probably in the home plumbing.



Next, confirm your findings through the isolation of the home plumbing from the irrigation system. Start by opening the irrigation main valve to restore system pressure. Then, close the home plumbing main valve. In most homes, this valve is typically in line with the pressure regulator and main hose spigot located by the front door or in the garage. This valve can come in two designs: Gate Valve or Ball Valve. A word of caution, if this valve is not exercised (closed or opened) at least once a year, it may not work correctly at a time of great need.

Return to the water meter and check the low flow dial. If the low flow dial has stopped spinning, the leak is in the home plumbing. TCWD recommends that homeowners contact a certified plumber to complete these types of repairs. If there is ever an instance of a leak at the water meter connection inside the meter box on the District's side of the meter (before the meter), please contact TCWD Customer Service and a District representative can schedule the necessary repairs.

### **IRRIGATION TIMER SCHEDULES**

During the winter months of January through March, there is a decreased need for the irrigation of grasses and plants. This is typically due to the winter season's characteristically increased amount of rain. This winter, the ground is extremely saturated from the abundance of rainwater the Canyon areas received over the holidays. Now is an excellent time to review irrigation timer schedules and adjust the duration and frequency of usage, if necessary.

It is important to remember that most of the soil in TCWD's service area is heavily clay-based, which makes for a dense ground that is adverse to percolation. Unchecked long irrigation run times can result in increased runoff and wasted water. The best solution to this problem is to utilize multiple start times and shorter run times to allow effective percolation and reduce unnecessary water waste. If you have any questions concerning irrigation timer schedules, please contact TCWD.

### **SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP**

On Wednesday, February 16, 2011, a Special Board Workshop was held prior to the Regular Board Meeting at the Administration Office. At this Workshop, TCWD's Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Audit was presented to the Board Members and members of the public who were in attendance.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

### **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Board Meeting was held on February 16, 2011, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Discussion and action relating to Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Audit
- Status update relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Status update relating to Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Groundwater Treatment Facility
- Status update and action relating to Storm Damage of December 2010
- Ratification and adoption of Resolution 2011-1146, Declaring Intention to Reimburse Expenditures Using Proceeds to Issued Debt and Securities